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Ref Dept's G-440 to Bonn.

Explaining reasons for Brentano's tabling "Preliminary Steps to Reunification of Germany", Quadripartite Meeting April 1, Dr. Meisner, German Foreign Office, said followings:

1. When Foreign Minister left for Washington meeting it was agreed German government would endorse general lines U.S. plan reunification based on earlier Meisner-Fechter plan.
2. These instructions changed abruptly by Chancellor and substance German paper from Washington by van Scherpberg.
3. Meisner says German about face not due substance Working Group proposals but rather

(a) Chancellor's concern about direction Western policies resulting from British maneuvers following Macmillan's trip to U.S.S.R.;

(b) Internal political pressures as evidenced by publication SPD Deutschland Plan; Ollenhauer-Ehrler-Schmid discussions with Khrushchev; and dissension even in CDU;

(c) DeGaulle statement on Germany's eastern boundaries;

(d) And, most of all, because Secretary Dulles from scene at this crucial time, particularly when "dangerous" projects being proposed by some of Western allies.

TIMELAKE

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